

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:RATHERTON

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD

FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO
PRESIDENT SADAT VIA FAHMY.

BEGIN MESSAGE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR
LETTER OF AUGUST 14, REAFFIRMING YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE OB-
JECTIVE WE SHARE OF ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND
DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE WITH YOUR VIEW THAT THE
AGREEMENT CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION, IMPORTANT AS IT IS
FOR REDUCING TENSIONS AND RECAPTURING THE MOMENTUM TOWARD
PEACE, CONSTITUTES ONLY A STEP TOWARD A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

I RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR PREFERENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO PRO-
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CEED NOW TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT. I ALSO RECOGNIZE

THAT THE SITUATION FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
PASSES AND THE OIL FIELDS WILL NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE PER-
MANENT SOLUTION TO YOU OR TO THE ARAB WORLD GENERALLY.
WE DISCUSSED FRANKLY AT SALZBURG WHY AN INTERIM STEP IS THE
BEST WAY TO PROCEED AT THIS TIME WHILE PERMITTING THE

REALITIES IN THE AREA AND INTERNATIONALLY TO MATURE TO THE
POINT WHERE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO ACHIEVE FINAL PEACE CAN
BE MADE. IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS, WE BOTH AGREED THAT THE
ISSUES OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT MUST BE ADDRESSED
WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SEEM MOST PROMISING FOR SUCCESS. AS
I SAID TO YOU, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY
A VITAL ROLE IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS AND WILL DO ITS
UTMOST TO MOVE MATTERS FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY. WHILE
RECOGNIZING THAT A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT IS IMPORTANTLY
A MATTER TO BE NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES, THE UNITED
STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO PUT FORWARD IDEAS OF OUR OWN
WHEN AND IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO DO SO.

I AM CERTAIN, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE COURSE ON WHICH WE
ARE EMBARKED IS THE RIGHT ONE AND THAT, PENDING A FINAL
SETTLEMENT, THE AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED WILL BRING
MAJOR BENEFITS TO EGYPT. SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL COME
TO THE MIDDLE EAST THIS WEEK WITH MY FULL SUPPORT AND
DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THE STEP IMMEDIATELY AHEAD OF US.
AS WE ENTER THIS FINAL STAGE OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS,
I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS
WITH THE VISION YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN AND WITH YOUR STATES-
MANLIKE ABILITY TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MAIN ISSUES
WITHOUT BEING DIVERTED BY PERIPHERAL MATTERS. THESE
QUALITIES OF YOURS HAVE BEEN DECISIVE IN BRINGING
MEASURABLE PROGRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME TOWARD THE PEACE
THAT HAS ELUDED ALL PREVIOUS LEADERS IN THE AREA.

DR. KISSINGER WILL CONVEY TO YOU PERSONALLY MY STRONG CON-
VICTION THAT, ONCE THIS IMMEDIATE STEP IS ACCOMPLISHED,
WE MUST REMAIN FIRM IN PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON STRATEGY OVER
THE MONTHS AHEAD UNTIL THE TIME IS RIPE TO DEVOTE OUR FULL
ATTENTION AND ENERGY TO DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY TO BRING
ABOUT A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS
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PART WILL FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS RESPECT.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, ONCE THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WE ARE
DISCUSSING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, IT IS MY STRONG HOPE AND
DESIRE THAT YOU AND MRS. SADAT WILL PAY A VISIT TO OUR
COUNTRY THIS YEAR AS MRS. FORD'S AND MY GUESTS.

WITH WARM REGARDS, GERALD R. FORD.

END MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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